THE

Principles of Drawing Ornaments

MADE EASY,

BY PROPER EXAMPLES OF

Leaves for MOULDINGS, CAPITALS, SCROLLS, HUSKS, FOLIAGE, &c.

ENGRAVED IN IMITATION OF DRAWINGS,

ON SIXTEEN PLATES,

WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR

Learning without a Maſter;

PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO

CARVERS, CABINET-MAKERS, STUCCO-WORKERS, PAINTERS, SMITHS,

And every One concerned in Ornamental Decorations.

BY AN ARTIST.

LONDON: Printed for I. and J. TAYLOR, at the ARCHITECTURAL LIBRARY, No. 56, HOLBORN.

[Price 4s. 6d. ſewed.

INTRODUCTION.

IT is a juſt Obſervation, that the firſt Principles of Art are few and ſimple. From theſe, an almoſt infinite Variety of Combinations may ariſe; and young Perſons, pleaſed with the Variety in a Subject which is intricate and laboured in its Compoſition, think it an Excellence, if (notwithſtanding the exceſſive Toil) they can copy it with tolerable Exactneſs. Though, whatever their Succeſs be, they produce a Specimen rather of their Patience than their Skill.

Drawing or Deſigning is the Foundation of all the imitative Arts (for who can repreſent a Subject which he cannot draw?); and the firſt Principles of it, like thoſe of Writing, are few and eaſy, to be attained only by conſtant Practice; the Eye acquiring, by Degrees, Diſcernment ſufficient to direct the Hand, and correct its Errors. The young Student muſt not be diſcouraged if his firſt Attempts are difficult, or tedious; but, for continuing his Applications, he will find thoſe Obſtacles which once appeared invincible, will vaniſh under his improving Hand.

To give the Learner a proper View of the Principles of his Profeſſion, to remove the Tedioufneſs of Inſtruction from the Maſter, and to give the Pupil an Opportunity to improve his Genius, which many Maſters are either unable or unwilling to afford him, were the Motives which excited the Author to preſent the Public with this firſt Attempt, to make the Art of Drawing Ornaments eaſy and familiar: being convinced, that the Principles, the Rules, and the Examples here given, will afford the Learner a better Inſight into his Profeſſion, than elſewhere he can find.

It is not here meant to give Deſigns for the Workman; thoſe are regulated by the Faſhion of the Day, or the Taſte, and ſometimes the Caprice of the Employer: But whatever new Faſhion may prevail, a thorough Knowledge of theſe Principles will make the Tranſition eaſy to the Artiſt.

Inſtructions for Learners.

IN repreſenting human Figures, there are certain Lines and Proportions which conſtitute Beauty, and the happieſt Applications of theſe are in thoſe ancient Statues which have withſtood the Decay of Time, or have eſcaped the Violence of Barbarians. In Ornamental Decorations, the Lines are ſimple, and the Diſpoſition of them depends on Fancy. The Ability of Drawing, with Preciſion, Lines, circular, ſtraight, or parallel, and of carrying the ſame Sweep to the right Hand or left, will, in the preſent Inſtance, be a ſufficient Foundation.

SUPPOSING the Pupil provided with red or black Chalk, properly ſharpened to a Point, and with a Port-Crayon, for the more convenient uſing it, let him hold it as he would a Pen in Writing, but with the Hand ſo turned as almoſt to reſt the Knuckle of the little Finger on the Paper. Then moving the Hand and Crayon together, touch the Paper with the Chalk lightly, as is repreſented in the upper Sketch, Plate 2, or as the faint Sketch in Plate 3 and 4 (which are rudely marked), attending only to the great Sweep, or Outline, of the Subject, entirely diſregarding the ſmaller Breakings of the Leaves. Carefully compare the Proportions of this Sketch with the Original; and where it bulges out, or is depreſſed too much, take off that Part with a Crumb of Bread, and re-draw it more conformable to the Pattern: by Degrees you will acquire the agreeable Habit of Sketching with Facility. Always draw larger than the Original with a looſe Motion of the Hand.

WHEN the general Sketch is pretty correct, proceed to break the large Spaces marked for Leaves as in the middle Figure of Plate 4. And when the Ability of drawing Outlines is ſufficiently acquired, proceed to finiſh them according to the Examples given.

IN Plate 2, are Examples of Mouldings, the Outlines of which ſhould be drawn true, before they are filled up with their Decorations. Be particularly careful to draw both to the right Hand and left, this Habit being of great Importance in drawing Ornaments, as they moſtly have both Sides alike. Theſe Obſervations properly attended to in the Beginning, the reſt will be learned with more Pleaſure, becauſe leſs difficult.

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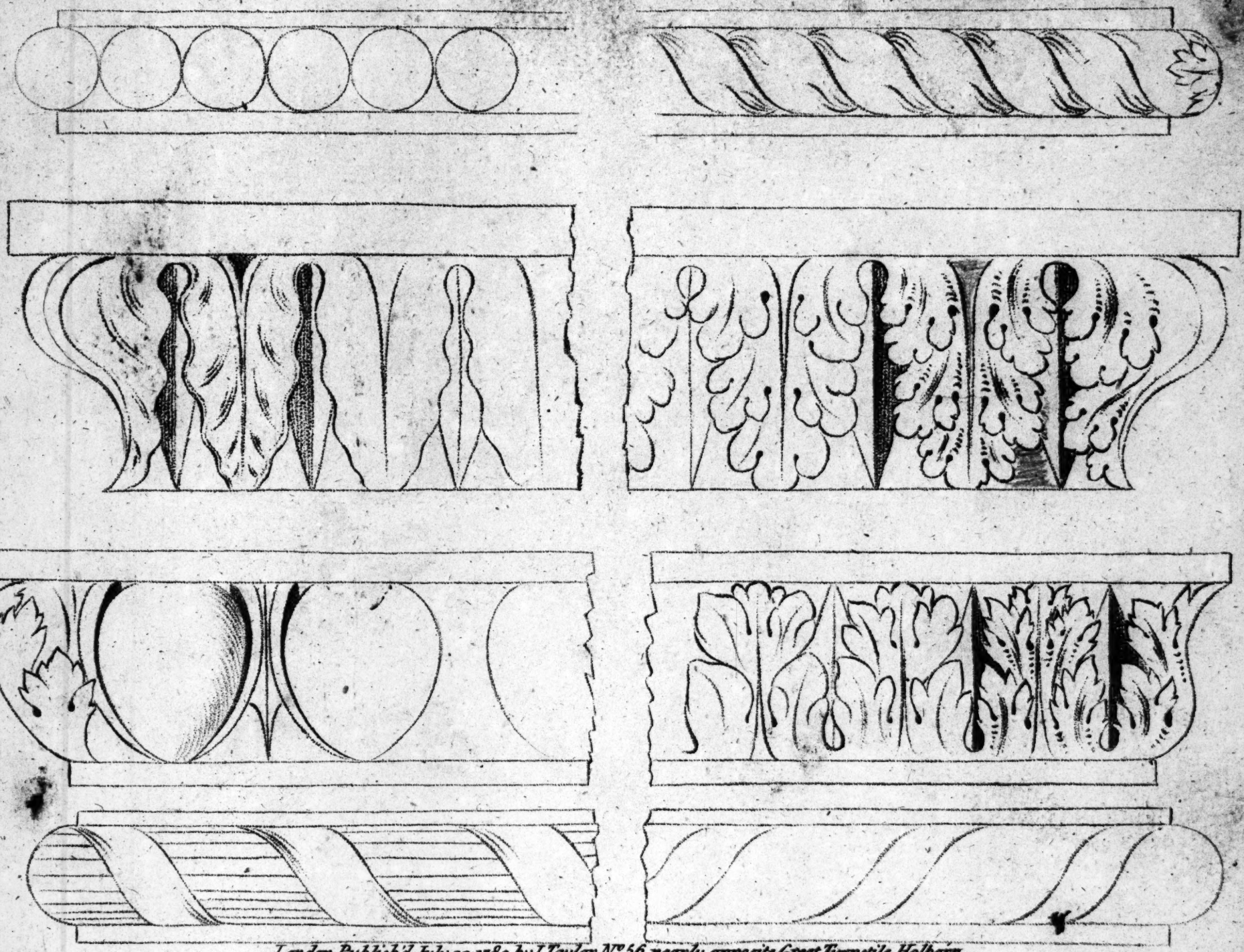

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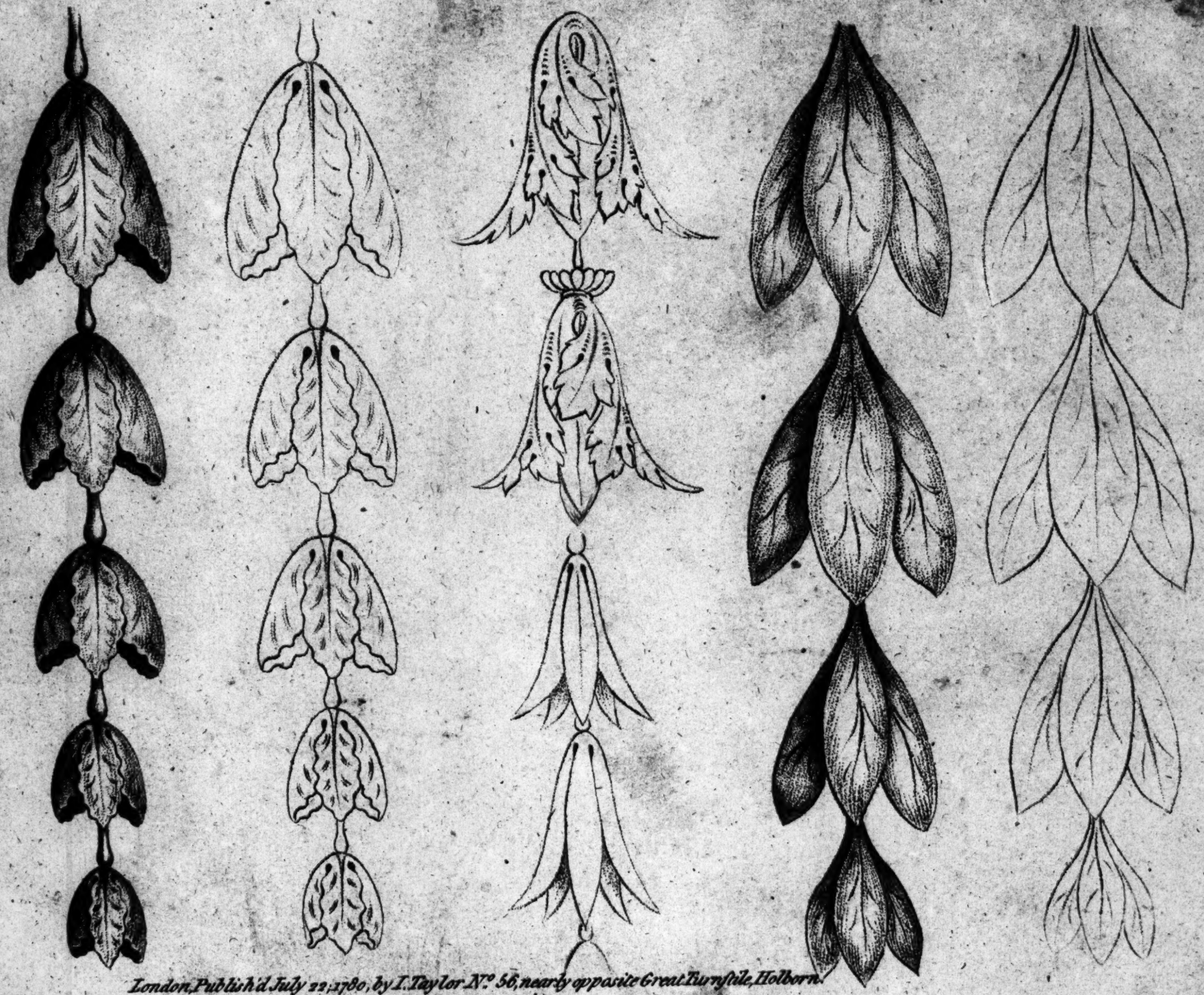

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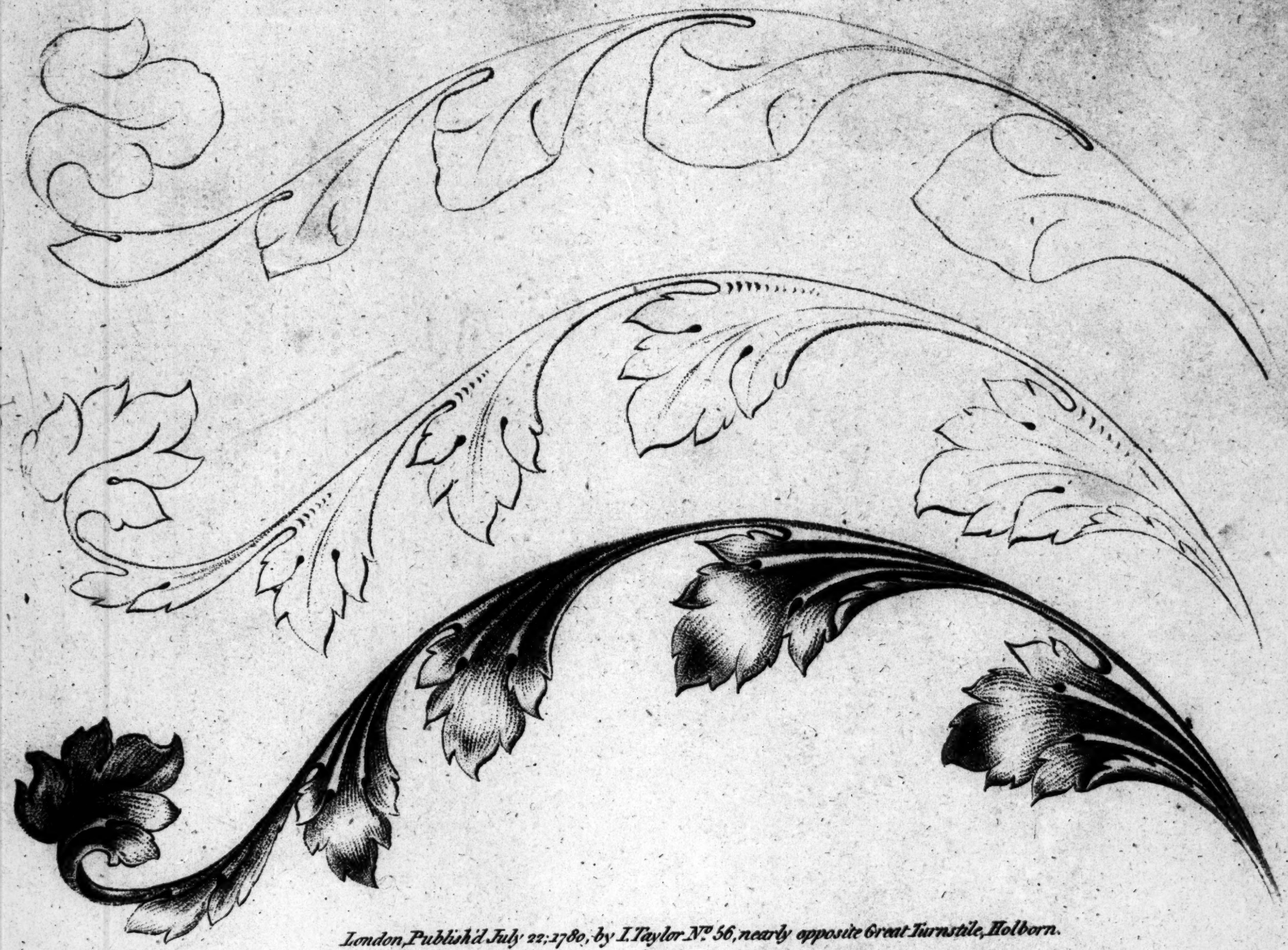

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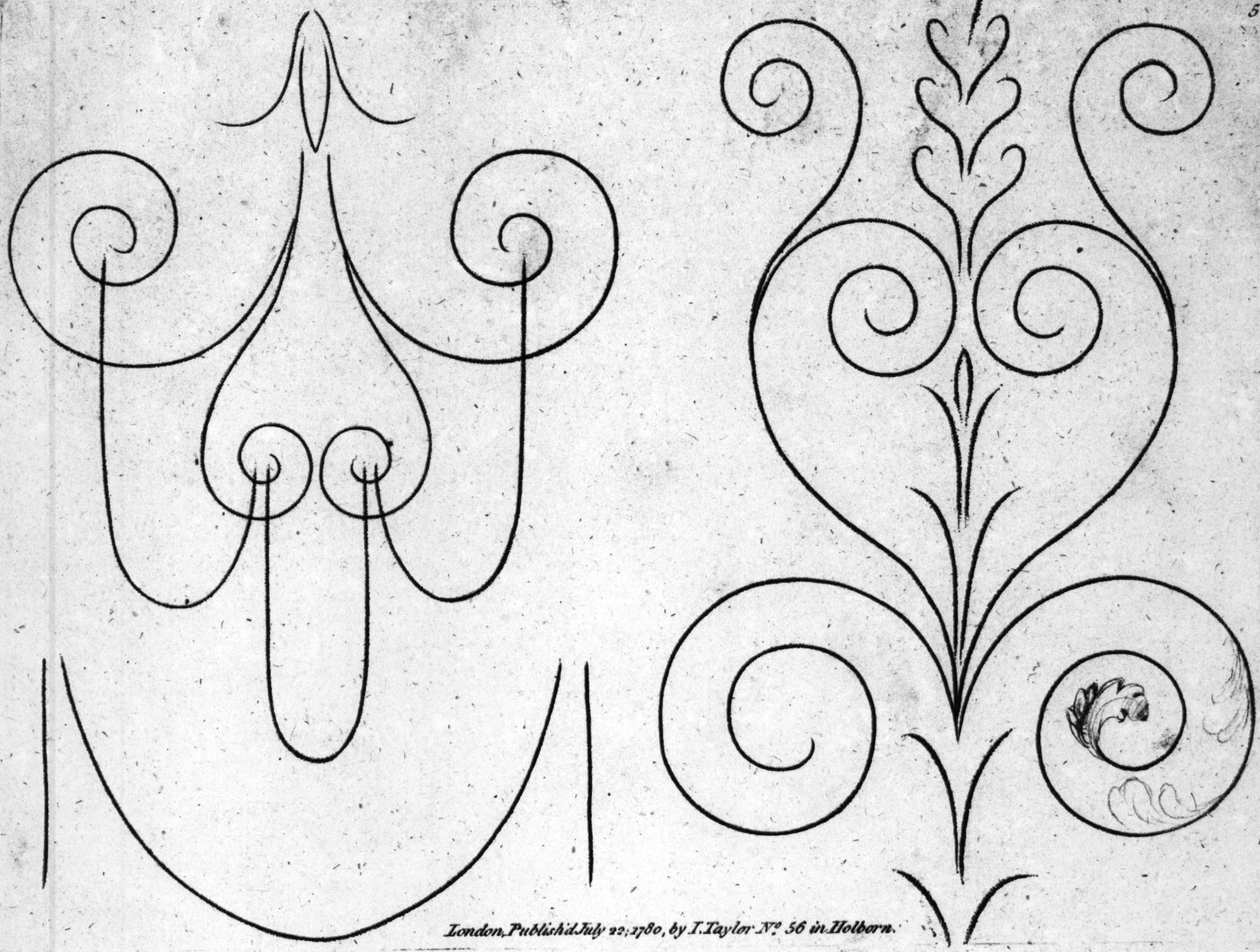

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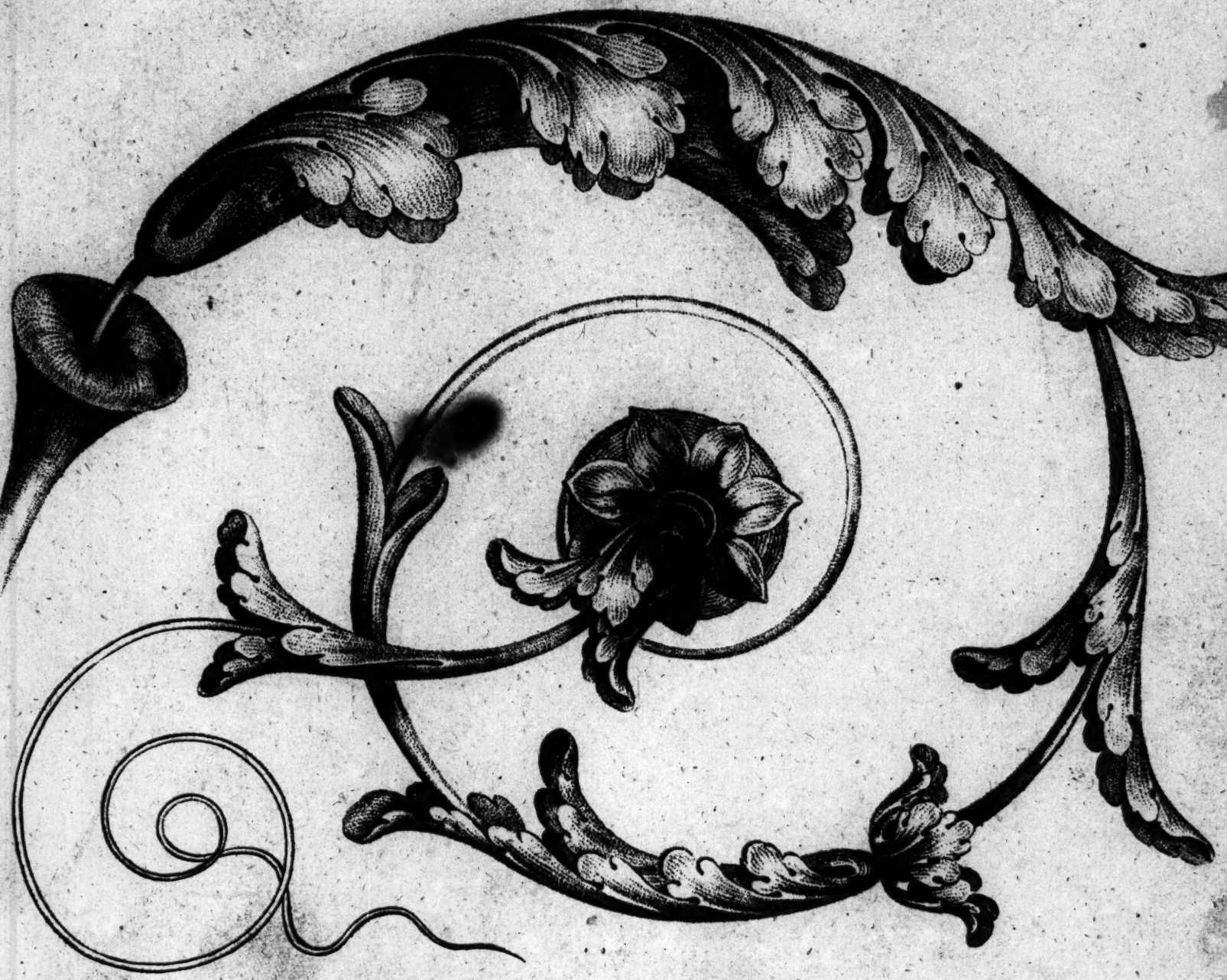

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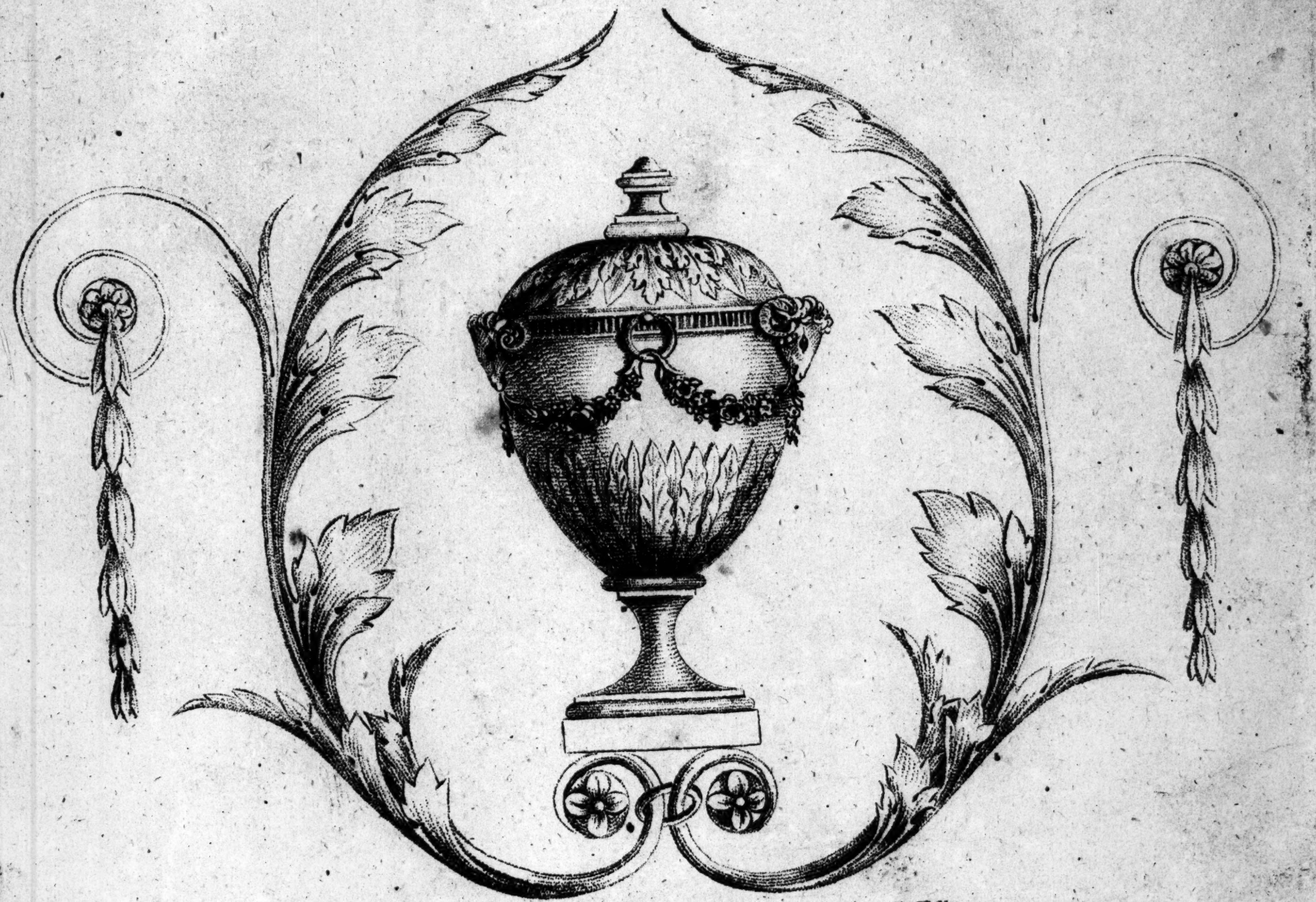

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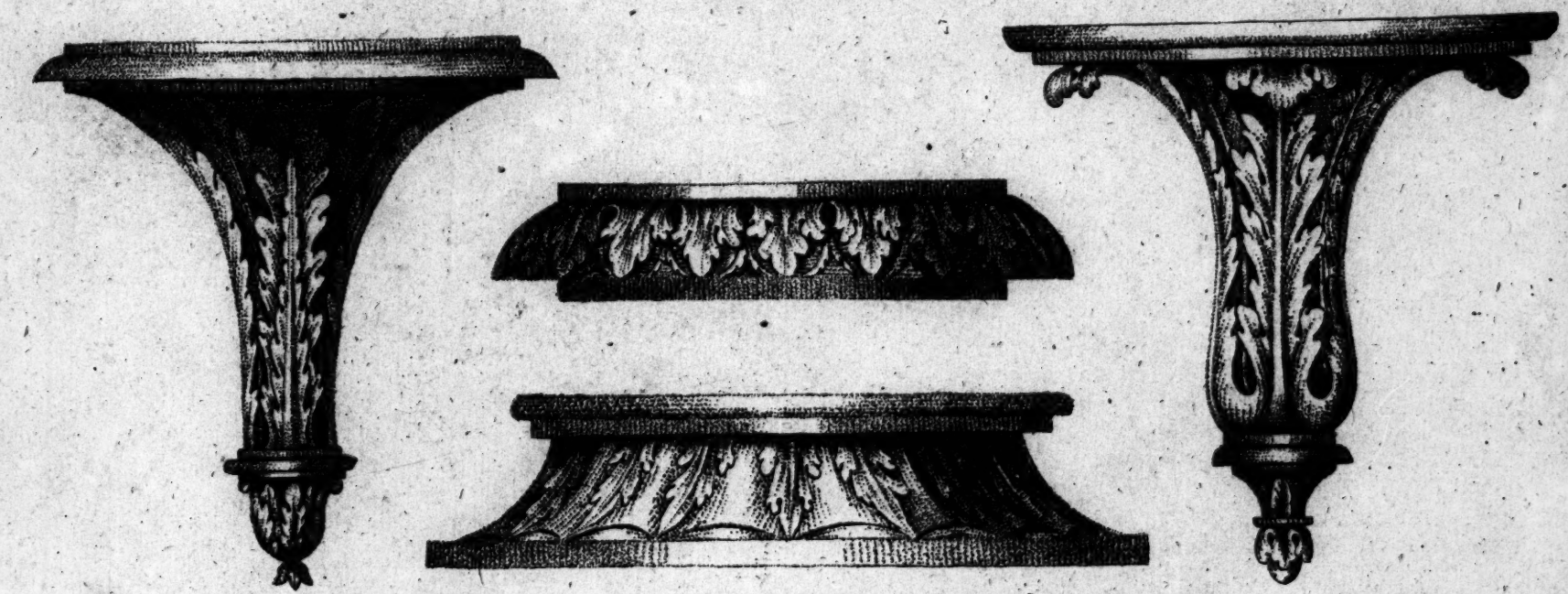

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